

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed July 22, 2005 has been received and the Examiner's comments carefully reviewed. Claim 10 has been amended. Claims 35-49 have been added. No new subject matter has been added. Claims 17-34 have been cancelled. Claims 1-16 and 35-49 are currently pending. Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Examiner Interview

Applicant's below signed representative conducted a telephone interview with Examiner Connelly-Cushwa on November 16, 2005. The interview was directed toward proposed amendments of claim 10 to address the Examiner's concerns regarding the art cited in the Office Action of July 22, 2005. The Examiner indicated that the amendment concerning "a lower portion having a direct opening into the interior of the housing", as submitted herewith, would address the stated art rejection. No agreement was reached regarding the patentability of claim 1. The Examiner is thanked for her time.

Election/Restriction

The Examiner withdrew claims 17-34 as being directed to inventions independent from the invention originally claimed. Applicants have accordingly cancelled claims 17-34.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Petrunia (U.S. Patent 5,212,761). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 recites a housing having a bottom, a top, a rear, and a front. The bottom, the rear, and the sides define a cable notch region, wherein the cable notch region defines an opening for receiving a cable. A cable clamp extends from the rear in the cable notch region.

Petrunia discloses a fiber optic module having a housing. "The housing includes two vertical side surface, 11 and 12, and a top surface 13. A portion of the top surface 13 is curved A portion of the curved surface includes an open channel 14 formed

therein extending from a horizontal portion of the surface [13] to a bottom surface [15] of the housing. . . . A port, 40, is formed at one end of the channel [14]." Column 2, lines 17-24. The module also includes "a cable clamp 22 which is screwed into the side 12 of the module so that the cable extends through the port 40. . . ." Column 56-58.

The Examiner states that Petrunia discloses a housing have an opening in a cable notch region, as "'the cable notch region' is a broad term that includes the region within and surrounding the cable notch." Yet, to the contrary, Applicants have particularly defined the cable notch region as the region defined by the bottom, rear, and sides. The opening is in this cable notch region. Accordingly, the opening is required to be in the region defined by the bottom, rear, and sides. The port 40 of Petrunia is not within a region defined by the bottom, rear, and sides. Rather, the port 40 of Petrunia is within a region defined by the top and sides.

In addition, claim 1 requires a cable clamp "in" the cable notch region. The cable notch region is defined by the bottom, rear, and sides of the housing. The cable clamp is therefore required to be located in a region defined by the bottom, rear, and sides. The cable clamp 22 of Petrunia is not within a region defined by the bottom, rear, and sides. Rather, the clamp 22 of Petrunia is within a region defined by the top and sides.

Further, claim 1 requires that the clamp extend from the rear of the housing, as distinguished from the claimed front, top, bottom, and sides of the housing. It is unclear how the Examiner can assert that Petrunia discloses each and every element of the claim including a clamp extending from the rear, when Petrunia makes clear that the surface 13 is a top surface (as opposed to a bottom surface 15), the surface 12 is a housing side and that the clamp is screwed to the side 12 of the housing at the port 40, which is at the "end of the channel 14," defined by the "horizontal portion" of the top surface 13. *Id.* Petrunia discloses a clamp 22 located at the top and extending from the side 12 of the housing, not the rear.

At least for these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner rejected claims 4-10 and 12-16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Petrunia (U.S. Patent 5,212,761). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, but have amended claim 10 to advance this case to allowance. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the original subject matter in a continuing application.

Claims 4-9 depend upon claim 1. In view of the remarks regarding independent claim 1, further discussion regarding the independent patentability of dependent claims 4-9 is believed to be unnecessary. Applicants submit that dependent claims 4-9 are in condition for allowance.

Claim 10 has been amended as agreed upon in the Examiner Interview of November 16, 2005. At least for the reasons discussed in the interview, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 10 and dependent claims 12-16 are patentable.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner objected to claims 2, 3, and 11, but indicated that claims 2, 3, and 11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form incorporating all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants thank the Examiner for this notification.

New claim 35 recited the subject matter of objected-to claim 11 and base claim 10. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 35 is in condition for allowance.

New Claims 36-48

Support for new claims 36-48 is found in the specification, for example, in Figures 9 and 10 and in the claims originally recited.

New claim 36 depends upon claim 35. New claims 37-39 depend upon claim 10. New claim 49 depends upon claim 1. In view of the above remarks regarding independent claims 35, 10, and 1, further discussion regarding the independent patentability of dependent claims 36-39 and 49 is believed to be unnecessary. Applicants submit that dependent claims 36-39 and 49 are in condition for allowance.

New claim 40 recites a connection module including a housing with a lower portion having a downwardly facing opening into the interior of the housing. Claims 41-

48 depend upon claim 40. Applicants respectfully submit that none of the cited art discloses the module as characterized in claim 40; and that claims 40-48 are therefore patentable.

SUMMARY

It is respectfully submitted that each of the presently pending claims (claims 1-16 and 35-49) is in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is requested. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the below-listed telephone number if it is believed that prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

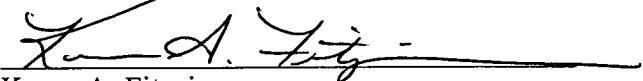
Although certain arguments regarding patentability are set forth herein, there may be other arguments and reasons why the claimed invention is patentably distinct. Applicants reserve the right to raise these arguments in the future.

Respectfully submitted,



MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

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Karen A. Fitzsimmons
Reg. No. 50,470
KAF:cjc